
Have You Heard the News?

January 15, 2004

Statewide Aerial Photography District Maps Available to the General Assembly

Senator John C. Watkins (Office 331), Chairman of the Virginia Geographic Information Network Division (VGIN) Advisory Board and VGIN Board members Senator Mary Margaret Whipple (Office 430), Delegate Beverly Sherwood (Office 512) and Delegate Sam Nixon (Office 503) invite their fellow Senators and Delegates to stop by their offices to view large format examples of the Virginia Base Mapping Program (VBMP) Imagery. Senate and House district maps, as well as multiple map products, are available to General Assembly members through VGIN, a division of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), for the minimal cost of production.

Saving Virginia's cities and counties an estimated **\$6 million dollars** (50%) over the cost of purchasing the data independently, county by county, VGIN acquired the statewide VBMP imagery, covering more than 43,000 sq. miles, for \$7.4 million dollars. Delivery of the VBMP imagery to cities and counties, at no cost, gave each **local government the option to invest local funds** in value-added applications and services designed to meet local needs.

This fall VGIN, with initial funding through the Virginia Wireless E-911 services board, completed the initial distribution of high-resolution digital aerial photographs to Virginia's 134 independent counties and cities as part of the VBMP. Digital aerial photography is a **critical component** of geographic information systems (GIS), which local and state governments are using to **expand and improve services** to Virginia's citizens including E-911 and homeland security.

The seamless statewide VBMP imagery also ensures that individual local, state, and federal GIS applications, including critical functions like E-911, emergency planning and economic development will **work seamlessly across political boundaries** and that each local government can efficiently share data with neighboring cities and counties as well as with state and federal government partners.

For additional information on the Virginia Base Mapping Program please contact Bill Shinar, VGIN Coordinator, by telephone at: (804) 786-8175 or via email bill.shinar@vgin.virginia.gov.

The creation of VITA by the 2003 General Assembly is intended to yield significant savings for the Commonwealth, and increased efficiencies and service improvements to the state's technology infrastructure.

To view this and other VITA Bulletins, visit <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/news/vitaBulletins/vitaBulletins.cfm>.

www.vita.virginia.gov

